



The Census Bureau sees an older, more diverse America in 2100 in three immigration scenarios

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

By the end of the century, the U.S. population will be declining without substantial immigration, older adults will outnumber children and white, non-Hispanic residents will account for less than 50% of the population, according to projections released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The population projections offer a glimpse of what the nation may look like at the turn of the next century, though a forecast decades into the future can't predict the unexpected like a global pandemic.


The projections can help the U.S. prepare for change, from anticipating the demands of health care for seniors to providing insight into the number of schools that need to be built over the coming decades, said Paul Ong, a public affairs professor at UCLA.




Bret Harte Retirement Inn residents make their way down to the dining room for lunch, May 6, 2020, in Grass Valley, Calif.

Associated Press
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"As most demographers realize, population projection is not an inevitable destiny, just a glimpse into a possible future," Ong said. "'Seeing' that possibility also opens up opportunities for action." Population changes due to births and deaths, which are more predictable, and immigration, more uncertain. Because of that, the Census Bureau offers three different projections through 2100 based on high, medium and low immigration.

Under the low-immigration scenario, the U.S. population shrinks to 319 million people by 2100, from the current population of 333 million residents. It grows to 365 million people at the end of the century under the medium immigration scenario and to 435 million residents with high immigration. In each immigration scenario, the country is on track to become older and more diverse.

Americans of college age are already part of a majority-minority cohort. Aliana Mediratta, a 20-year-old student at Washington University in St. Louis welcomes a future with a more diverse population and believes immigration "is great for our society and our economy."

But that optimism is tempered by existential worries that



Katie O'Brien holds her son, Bennett, on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023, in the birthing room where she delivered him in July at the Henry County Medical Center in Paris, Tenn.

Associated Press

things seem to be getting worse, including climate change and gun violence. "I feel like I have to be optimistic about the future, since if I'm pessimistic, it disables me from doing things that I want to do, that are hard, but morally right to do," Mediratta said.

Here's a look at how the U.S. population is expected to change through 2100, using the medium immigration scenario.

2020s

By 2029, older adults will outnumber children, with 71 million U.S. residents aged 65 and older and 69 million residents under age 18.

The numeric superiority of seniors will mean fewer workers. Combined with children, they'll represent 40% of the population. Only around 60% of the popula-

tion that is working age — between 18 and 64 — will be paying the bulk of taxes for Social Security and Medicare.

2030s

"Natural increase" in the U.S. will go negative in 2038, meaning deaths outpacing births due to an aging population and declines in fertility. The Census projects 13,000 more deaths than births in the U.S., and that shortfall grows to 1.2 million more deaths than births by 2100.

2050s

By 2050, the share of the U.S. population that is white and not Hispanic will be under 50% for the first time.

Currently, 58.9% of U.S. residents are white, and not Hispanic. By 2050, Hispanic residents will account for a quarter of the U.S. popula-

tion, up from 19.1% today. African Americans will make up 14.4% of the population, up from 13.6% currently. Asians will account for 8.6% of the population, up from 6.2% today.

Also in the 2050s, Asians will surpass Hispanics as the largest group of immigrants by race or ethnicity.

2060s

The increasing diversity of the nation will be most noticeable in children. By the 2060s, non-Hispanic white children will be a third of the population under age 18, compared to under half currently.

2080s

Under that medium immigration scenario, the U.S. population peaks at more than 369 million residents in 2081. After that, the Census Bureau predicts a slight population decline, with deaths outpacing births and immigration.

2090s

By the end of the 2090s, the foreign population will make up almost 19.5% of U.S. residents, the highest share since the Census Bureau started keeping track in 1850. The highest rate previously was 14.8% in 1890. It currently is 13.9%.

FOREIGN BORN AND IMMIGRATION

Experts say that predicting immigration trends is more difficult than in the past when migration was tightly

linked to the pull of economic opportunity in the U.S.

When immigration is instead driven by the push of climate change, social tensions exacerbated by authoritarian rulers and gangs, as well as fluctuating anti-immigrant sentiment in the U.S., it is harder to predict, said Manuel Pastor, a professor of sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California.

"In the past we would say we get immigration from economics, and you can make some reasonable projections," Pastor said. "Now, we have these push pressures for people to come to the U.S., and we have a further racialized reaction to migration, we have a much wider band or error, or the potential to make mistakes."

RELIABILITY

How reliable will the numbers be, especially as race and ethnic definitions change, and immigration levels are hard to predict? While there is an extreme level of uncertainty projecting almost eight decades into the future, it is a good starting point, said Ong, the UCLA professor.

"Over 80 years, birth and death rates, fertility rates, and migration rates can be changed through policies, programs and resources," Ong said. □



Doug Emhoff, husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, speaks during a roundtable conversation, Oct. 27, 2023, in Miami.

Associated Press

By **ZEKE MILLER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Doug

Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, met with students and

Emhoff visits New York's Cornell University as he seeks to reassure Jewish community after threats

administrators at Cornell University on Thursday to offer support to the school's Jewish community after threats of violence amid Israel's war against Hamas. Emhoff, the first Jewish spouse of a nationally elected U.S. leader, met with the university president, chief of police and other administrators, and hosted a roundtable with Jewish students in the same kosher dining hall that was forced to closed due to the threats. A Cornell junior, Patrick Dai, was a arrested

last month for allegedly leaving threatening messages on a Greek life website unaffiliated with the school in Ithaca, New York. They included posts calling for the deaths of Jewish people and threatening to "shoot up 104 west," a university dining hall that caters predominantly to kosher diets and is next to the Cornell Jewish Center.

At a hearing Thursday, a federal magistrate judge in Syracuse, New York, granted, the government's motion to detain Dai without

bail, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

The White House said students shared with Emhoff "their personal experiences and reactions to the threats of violence on campus" and that Emhoff "offered messages of hope and encouraged the students to take pride in their Jewish faith."

Emhoff also discussed the Biden administration's work to combat antisemitism and security in schools and on college campuses, the White House said. □

Election offices are sent envelopes with fentanyl or other substances. Authorities are investigating

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and ED KOMENDA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities on Thursday were trying to determine who sent suspicious letters, including some containing fentanyl or other substances, to local election offices, an attack that appears to have targeted multiple states in the latest instance of threats faced by election workers around the country.

Officials in at least three states — Georgia, Oregon and Washington — reported concerns over letters targeting election workers. The Pierce County auditor's office in Tacoma, Washington, released images of the letter it received, showing it had been postmarked in Portland, Oregon, and read in part: "End elections now. Stop giving power to the right that they don't have."

Among the offices that appeared to be targeted was Fulton County in Georgia, which includes Atlanta and is the largest voting jurisdiction in one of the nation's most important presidential swing states. Authorities were working to intercept the letter. In the meantime, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said officials were sending the overdose-reversal drug naloxone to the office as a precaution.

"This is domestic terrorism, and



Emergency and law enforcement agencies respond to a possible hazmat situation at the King County Elections office in Renton, Wash., Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

it needs to be condemned by anyone that holds elected office and anyone that wants to hold elective office anywhere in America," said Raffensperger, a Republican. There is no immediate indication that any other election office in Georgia was targeted, according to an advisory sent by the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency and obtained by The Associated Press.

Authorities in Lane County, Oregon, which includes the University of Oregon, were investigating a piece of mail

that arrived at the local election office Wednesday. No one who came in contact with it had experienced any negative health effects, said Devon Ashbridge, spokeswoman for the Lane County Elections Office in Eugene. The incident prompted officials to close the office and delayed an afternoon pickup of ballots. Ashbridge declined to say whether any suspicious powder was contained in the mail, referring further questions to the FBI. "Someone attempted to terrorize our elections staff, and that's not OK," Ashbridge

said. "We hope that someone will be held accountable." On Wednesday, authorities in Washington state said four county election offices had to be evacuated as election workers were processing ballots cast in Tuesday's election, delaying vote-counting. Election offices in Seattle's King County and in Skagit, Spokane and Pierce counties received envelopes containing powders. Local law enforcement officials said the substances in King and Spokane counties field-tested positive for fentanyl. In at least one other case, the

substance was baking soda. Elections offices in two Washington counties — King and Okanogan — also received suspicious envelopes while processing ballots during the August primary, and the letter sent to King County tested positive for traces of fentanyl. The county's elections director, Julie Wise, told the AP on Wednesday that letter came with a message "that certain people shouldn't have elections."

"The August letters are being investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service as well as the FBI. Wise said she has not received any additional information regarding the status of the investigation or whether there is a suspect. Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs called the incidents in his state "acts of terrorism to threaten our elections."

A spokesperson for U.S. Department of Justice said the FBI and the postal authorities are investigating, but had no further comment.

Fentanyl, an opioid that can be 50 times as powerful as the same amount of heroin, is driving an overdose crisis deadlier than any the U.S. has ever seen as it is pressed into pills or mixed into other drugs. Briefly touching fentanyl cannot cause an overdose, and researchers have found that the risk of fatal overdose from accidental exposure is low. □

Nation's first openly gay governor looking to re-enter politics after nearly 20 years

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP) — The nation's first openly gay governor is looking to re-enter politics nearly 20 years after he left.

Former New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey announced Thursday that he will seek the mayor's office in Jersey City in 2025. He made the announcement in a video posted online and planned to formally launch his campaign with a news conference later in the day.

McGreevey, a Democrat, is a former Woodbridge Township mayor who was

elected governor in 2002. He announced in August 2004 that he was "a gay American" and acknowledged having an extramarital affair with a male staffer. He resigned that year.

"I was imperfect and I'll always be imperfect," McGreevey, 66, said at the start of the video, which shows him watching a portion of his resignation announcement. "It's important to take responsibility and do the next right thing."

After leaving office, Mc-

Greevey founded the New Jersey Reentry Corporation, which provides job training, counseling and many other services to people who are released from prison and returning to communities they may have left decades before. McGreevey is the first to announce his run for mayor. He's hoping to succeed three-term Mayor Steve Fulop, who has already announced he's running for governor in 2025.

Jersey City, located across the Hudson River from



Former Democratic Gov. Jim McGreevey is seen before New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy delivers his State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature at the statehouse, in Trenton, N.J., Jan. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

New York City, has about 284,000 residents and is the

state's second-most populous city. □

FBI head cites a 'potential conflict of interest' in the selection process for a new headquarters

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The contentious debate over a new FBI headquarters intensified further Thursday as the director said he was concerned about a "potential conflict of interest" in the site selection and the White House defended the process as "fair and transparent." But a senator said there a clear need for a federal investigation.

FBI Director Christopher Wray's unusually sharp criticism came in an internal email to agency employees that was obtained by The Associated Press. It was the latest twist in a vigorous competition among jurisdictions in the national capital region to land America's premier law enforcement agency.

That General Services Administration selected Greenbelt, Maryland, a Washington suburb, as the home for a new facility to replace the crumbling J. Edgar Hoover Building, which is blocks away from the White House. Wray said his objections were about the process rather than the Greenbelt site itself.

The GSA, which manages the government's real estate portfolio, said that site about 13 miles (20 kilometers) northeast of Washington was the cheapest one



FBI Director Christopher Wray testifies during a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on threats to the homeland, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

with the best access to public transit. But Wray asserted in his note that the choice came after a GSA executive overruled a board and picked land owned by a former employer.

Democratic Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, which also vied for the project, urged an investigation. "I had felt that this has been grossly political with efforts to try to change the criteria, but I was astounded when we found out that three career officials unanimously picked Virginia and a politi-

cal appointee overturned it. Clearly, there needs to be an inspector general investigation," he said.

In a joint statement, Virginia's elected leaders called for the determination to be reversed, asserting that their state's site remains the best choice under "any fair weighing of the criteria." But GSA Administrator Robin Carnahan stood behind the agency's work, saying officials followed all laws and ethical considerations. "Any suggestion that there was inappropriate interfer-

ence is unfounded," she said. White House principal deputy press secretary Olivia Dalton also defended the process. She did not comment on whether did Biden had any direct involvement in the final site decision.

"I can tell you it was a fair and transparent process," Dalton told reporters on Air Force One as Biden traveled to Illinois on Thursday. "The 61 acres in Greenbelt is both the lowest cost to taxpayers, most transportation options for FBI workers,

and we had the most assurances about the expeditious means with which a project could get underway." Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said Wray has previously indicated he would prefer to stay in Washington, but maintained that experts found a suburban location is a better choice for the agency's long-term security. "To say somehow this process was skewed is wrong," Hoyer said.

Maryland and Virginia had long been vying to land the FBI, and officials in Virginia, which is home to the FBI Academy, criticized the government's decision.

Congress last year directed the administration to consider three sites for the new headquarters: Greenbelt and Landover in Maryland or Springfield, Virginia.

A board that included representatives from the GSA and the FBI unanimously agreed on Springfield, Wray wrote. But a senior GSA executive changed course and went with Greenbelt, the FBI director said.

"The FBI observed that, at times, outside information was inserted into the process in a manner which appeared to disproportionately favor Greenbelt, and the justifications for the departures from the panel were varied and inconsistent," Wray wrote. □

Associated Press



The National Transportation Safety Board logo and signage are seen at a news conference at NTSB headquarters in Washington, Dec. 18, 2017.

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer

The nation's top accident investigator said Thursday that a surge in close calls between planes at U.S.

airports this year is a "clear warning sign" that the aviation system is under stress.

"While these events are incredibly rare, our safety system is showing clear signs

Top U.S. accident investigator says close calls between planes show that aviation is under stress

of strain that we cannot ignore," Jennifer Homendy, chair of the National Transportation Safety Board, told a Senate panel on Thursday.

Homendy warned that air traffic and staffing shortages have surged since the pandemic. She said there has been a "lack of meaningful" training — and more reliance on computer-based instruction — by the Federal Aviation Administration and airlines, and too many irregular work schedules among pilots and air traffic controllers.

"Where you end up with that is distraction, fatigue," she told the aviation subcommittee. "You are missing things, you are forgetting things."

The NTSB is investigating six close calls, or what aviation insiders call "runway incursions." The FAA identified 23 of the most serious types of close calls in the last fiscal year, which ended Oct. 1, up from 16 the year before and 11 a decade ago. Independent estimates suggest those figures grossly understate such incidents. Thursday's hearing included

only a momentary discussion of pilot mental health, which is on travelers' minds because of the arrest of an off-duty pilot accused of trying to disable a plane in midflight and a co-pilot who allegedly threatened to shoot the captain.

"We are not healthier than we were last year, controller-wise," said Rich Santa, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. "I think FAA's own numbers indicate we have potentially six more air traffic controllers than we had last year." □

Spanish politician shot in broad daylight suspects his anti-Tehran work is behind the murder attempt

By ALICIA LEÓN, JOSEPH WILSON and ARITZ PARRA
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Veteran Spanish right-wing politician Alejandro Vidal-Quadras was recovering in hospital Thursday after being shot in the face in broad daylight on a central Madrid street. Police were ruling out no hypotheses, including a possible link to the former European lawmaker's ties with the Iranian opposition. A police source close to the investigation told The Associated Press there was no evidence backing the Iranian link, but confirmed that Vidal-Quadras himself had raised that suspicion from his hospital bed and that investigators were looking into it as one of several possible motives.

In a sign that police were broadening the investigation to look into the Iranian angle, another official revealed that a provincial brigade that handles terrorism and extremism cases joined late on Thursday in the inquiries previously led by agents specialized in homicides.

Both officials spoke to AP under the condition of anonymity to protect the secrecy of the inquiries.

Vidal-Quadras was attacked at around 1:30 p.m. local time near his home in the Spanish capital and he



The Vice-President of the European Parliament Alejo Vidal-Quadras from Spain gestures while talking to the media at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, Tuesday Jan. 27, 2009.

Associated Press

was conscious when taken to a hospital by emergency crews.

There were no immediate arrests and police were checking on surveillance footage and witness accounts to identify the shooter, who had been seen wearing a black helmet. The suspect had fired one single gunshot before fleeing the scene on a motorbike driven by an accomplice.

A charred motorbike found later in the day in a suburban town on the outskirts of Madrid was being inves-

tigated, one of the officials said.

Four hours after the shooting, Madrid's Gregorio Marañón hospital said the gunshot had fractured Vidal-Quadras' jawbone and that he would undergo surgery. It said the politician was in stable condition and that his life was not in danger.

Vidal-Quadras, 78, was a long-time member of Spain's conservative Popular Party, its regional leader in Catalonia, and a European Parliament member before leaving after three

decades when he fell out with then-Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

After he broke away, he helped found the far-right Vox party. He left Vox shortly after a failed attempt to win a European lawmaker seat in 2014.

As part of his political career, Vidal-Quadras has been aligned for decades with the Iranian opposition in exile, an involvement that was noticed by Tehran.

In January, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced it imposed sanctions on the

Spanish politician along with others who had ties with the exiled opposition group known as the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, accusing them of "supporting terrorism and terrorist groups."

The group, known as the MEK, began as a Marxist organization opposing the rule of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. It claimed — and was suspected of — a series of attacks against U.S. officials in Iran in the 1970s, something the group now denies.

The MEK operates under a variety of names, including the National Council of Resistance of Iran and the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran.

In mid-September, addressing an international conference organized by the NCRI in Brussels, Vidal-Quadras criticized European Union officials and leaders for not being strong enough in their opposition to Iran and in their support for the exiled opposition.

The MEK also has paid former American and European officials to speak at their summits in the past.

Iran's state-run media in the past, citing reporting by the Spanish daily newspaper El País, had alleged Vidal-Quadras' Vox party had received MEK money. It described the payments as "terrorist money." □

Russia says it test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile from a new nuclear submarine

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian military on Sunday reported a successful test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile designed to carry nuclear warheads from a new nuclear submarine.

The report comes as tensions are soaring between Russia and the West over the fighting in Ukraine. Adding to those tensions, President Vladimir Putin last week signed a bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban in a move that Moscow said was needed to estab-

lish parity with the United States.

The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that the Emperor Alexander III strategic missile cruiser fired the Bulava missile from an underwater position in Russia's northern White Sea, and hit a target in the far-eastern region of Kamchatka. It wasn't immediately clear from the statement when the test launch occurred.

The Emperor Alexander III is one of the new Borei-class nuclear submarines that carry 16 Bulava missiles

each and are intended to serve as the core naval component of the nation's nuclear forces in the coming decades. According to the Defense Ministry, launching a ballistic missile is the final test for the vessel, after which a decision should be made on its induction into the fleet.

The Russian navy currently has three Borei-class submarines in service, one more is finishing tests and three others are under construction, the Defense Ministry said. □



People from Juana Mendez, on the Haitian side of the border, wait in vain to be allowed to cross into Dajabon, Dominican Republic, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

Father of Liverpool striker Luis Díaz released after his kidnapping in Colombia by ELN guerrillas

By **ASTRID SUÁREZ** and **MARKO ÁLVAREZ**
Associated Press

BARRANCAS, Colombia

(AP) — The father of Liverpool striker Luis Díaz was released Thursday by members of a guerrilla group who kidnapped him in northern Colombia, the government announced, ending a 12-day ordeal for the family.

Luis Manuel Díaz's kidnapping on Oct. 28 from his hometown of Barrancas had quickly drawn international attention and appeals for his release. On Sunday, the younger Díaz pleaded for his father's freedom after scoring for Liverpool in a Premier League soccer match, revealing a T-shirt saying "Freedom for Papa" in Spanish.

The release by members of the National Liberation Army, or ELN — which has called the kidnapping a mistake — was announced by the government delegation that currently is in peace negotiations with the guerrilla group.

The elder Díaz, wearing a green shirt and baseball cap, waved to well-wishers later Thursday as arrived back to his hometown, escorted by authorities.

"These really have been quite the agonizing days, with great uncertainty," Alfonso Díaz, a cousin of Luis Manuel Díaz, told The As-



Luis Manuel Díaz waves to neighbors at his home in Barrancas, Colombia, after he was released by his kidnappers Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023.

sociated Press. "But always with faith placed in God for the best outcome because our family does not deserve an attack of this magnitude."

It was initially unclear who carried out the abduction. But Colombia's government announced last week that it had information that Díaz was kidnapped by an ELN unit. The ELN later acknowledged the kidnapping, saying it was a mistake and that the group's top leadership had ordered the elder Díaz's release.

An ELN statement Sunday said that the planned re-

lease was hampered by military deployments in northern Colombia and that it couldn't guarantee a safe release under those circumstances. The Colombian military said Monday that it was shifting its positions to facilitate a release. Both parents of Liverpool's Díaz had been kidnapped by armed men on motorcycles at a gas station in Barrancas. But the footballer's mother, Cilenis Marulanda, was rescued within hours by police who set up roadblocks around the town of 40,000 people, which is near Colombia's border

with Venezuela.

After the kidnapping, special forces had been deployed in the area to search for Díaz's father in a mountain range that straddles both countries and is covered by cloud forest. Police also had offered a \$48,000 reward for information leading to him.

The United Nations and the Catholic Church helped facilitate the handover, and their representatives received Díaz's father Thursday in the area of the mountain range Serranía del Perijá, where he received primary medical

care.

He was then taken by helicopter to Valledupar, a community about 56 miles (90 kilometers) from Barrancas, his native town in the northeastern part of the country. His neighbors in Barrancas welcomed him with music and cheers while police guarded his family's home.

"Mane is a man with a very humble heart, a man who has fought to raise his children," Barrancas resident Mayulis Lindo Redondo said, using the elder Díaz's nickname.

The 26-year-old striker is one of the most talented players on Colombia's national team. He joined Liverpool in a deal worth \$67 million. The team tweeted it was "delighted by the news" of Díaz's father release. The forward was included in the starting line-up for the team's Europa League match against Toulouse on Thursday.

Colombia's Ombudsman's Office estimates that between January 2022 and September 2023, armed groups carried out 160 kidnappings and 121 releases. After Díaz's father was released, the government's peace talks delegation demanded in a statement that the ELN immediately free anyone it still "has in captivity" and end its practice of kidnappings. □

New island emerges after undersea volcano erupts off Japan, but experts say it may not last long



This aerial photo shows steam billowing from the waters off Iwoto Island, Ogasawara town in the Pacific Ocean, southern Tokyo, on Oct. 30, 2023.

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — An undersea volcano erupted off Japan three weeks ago, providing a rare view of the birth of a tiny new island, but experts say it may not last very long. The unnamed undersea volcano, located about 1 kilometer (half a mile) off the southern coast of Iwo Jima, which Japan calls Ioto, started its latest series of eruptions on Oct. 21.

Within 10 days, volcanic ash and rocks piled up on the

shallow seabed, its tip rising above the sea surface. By early November, it became a new island about 100 meters (328 feet) in diameter and as high as 20 meters (66 feet) above the sea, according to Yuji Usui, an analyst in the Japan Meteorological Agency's volcanic division.

Volcanic activity has increased near Iwo Jima and similar undersea eruptions have occurred in recent years, but the formation of a new island is a significant development, Usui said.

Volcanic activity at the site has since subsided, and the newly formed island has somewhat shrunk because its "crumbly" formation is easily washed away by waves, Usui said. He said experts are still analyzing the development, including details of the deposits. The new island could survive longer if it is made of lava or something more durable than volcanic rocks such as pumice. "We just have to see the development," he said. "But the island may not last very long." □

Associated Press

Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort Celebrates Sponsorship of the 31st Festival of Book for Kids in Aruba

Oranjestad, Aruba – November 10, 2023 – Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort is proud to announce its sponsorship of the 31st edition of the Aruba Children's Book Festival (Festival di Buki pa Mucha), an event organized annually by the National Library of Aruba. The festival began with an extraordinary opening show at Cas di Cultura on Saturday, November 4, and was broadcasted on the local channel TeleAruba.

The Aruba Children's Book Festival was held from November 4th to 10th. During the week of November 6th to 10th, a total of 16 authors, illustrators, and storytellers visited numerous schools in Aruba. In the afternoons of this week, presentations were also given at the libraries in Playa and San Nicolas. Additionally, the National Library of Aruba promoted its second-hand book market. Representing Aruba, several talented authors showcased their works, including Olga Buckley, Desiree Correa, Emerita Emerencia, Irmgard Frans, Vanessa Paulina, Esmeralda Tromp-Jacobs (Tanchi Esmé), Ruthy Vrieswijk, and Sheila Werleman. From Bonaire, Boi Antoin and Denise de Jongh-Rekwest participated, and Pedro Vargas represented Colombia. Curacao was represented by Alvin Inecia (Tio Ali) and Crisen Schorea, while Jeroen Hoogerwerf and Mariska Hammerstein were from the Netherlands. Misha Spanner came from St. Eustatius.

A highlight of the festival was the gift to the Aruban children, a book titled "Na cas di Carmen y Carlos" (At Home with Carmen and Carlos) by Jeroen Hoogerwerf and Vanessa Paulina. This book was made available to Aruban children



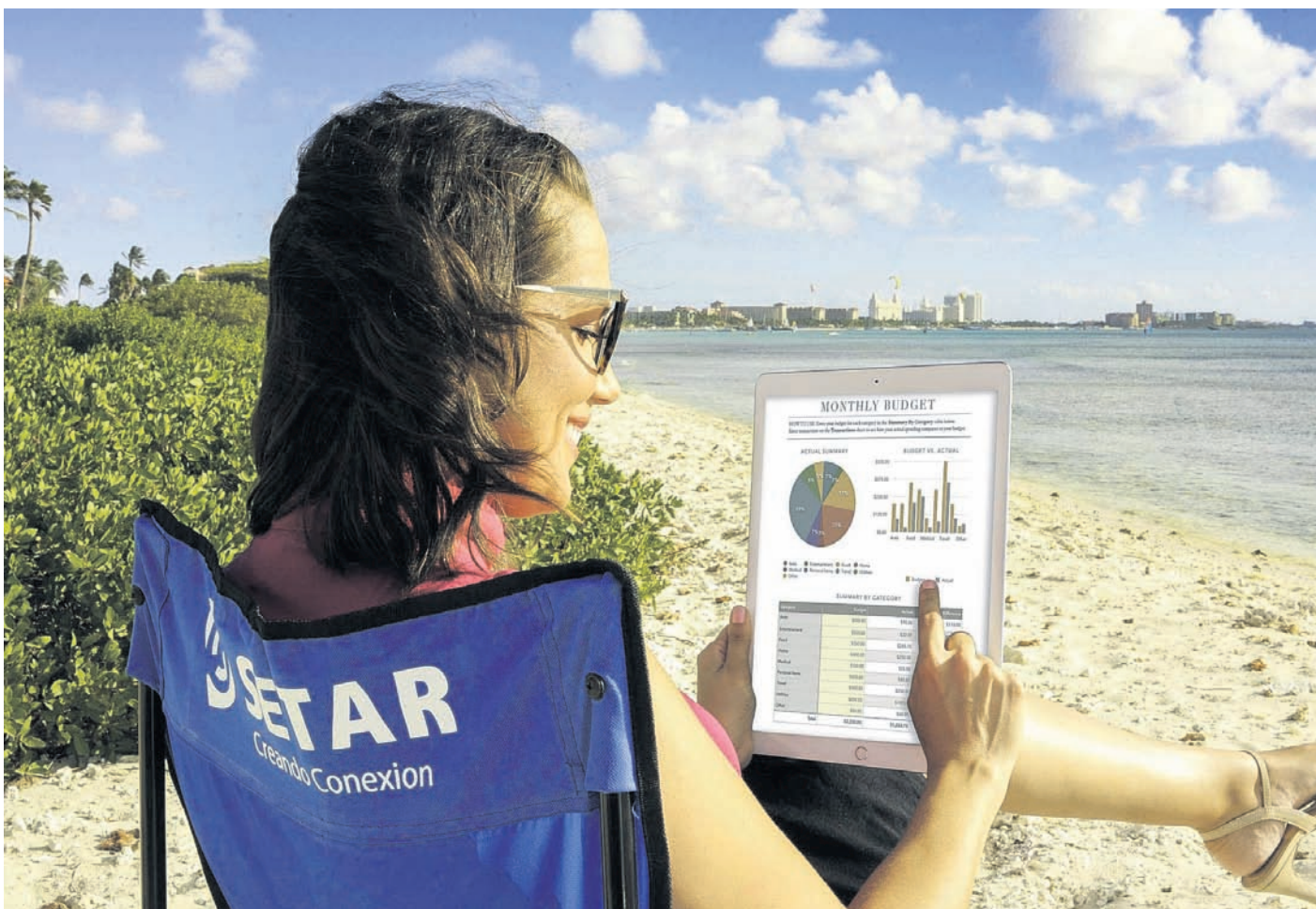
and since the official opening of the Aruba Children's Book Festival, it can be obtained for free by purchasing a book at DeWit & VanDorp and Plaza Bookshop stores.

The festival aimed to inspire children to be creative, kind, and curious about knowledge while promoting respect for cultural heritage and co-existence. Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort was delighted to offer comfortable accommodation in our beautiful Manor Studios to all international authors participating in the festival. Our exceptional guests enjoyed top-quality service and a warm, welcoming atmosphere for their six-night unforgettable Caribbean experience. A grand finale cocktail party was organized at Horizons Lounge to celebrate the successful collaboration among the authors and the National Library of Aruba. The party provided an oppor-

tunity to mingle and exchange ideas and was Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort's way of showing gratitude to the authors for their valuable participation and contribution to the Aruba Children's Book Festival. The resort is honored to be part of this inspirational literature wave initiated by the National Library of Aruba. Without the authors' involvement, the event would not have been as extraordinary as it was.

Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort is honored to support and celebrate the Aruba Children's Book Festival, which aims to encourage a love for reading and creativity among the youth of Aruba and is excited to continue promoting and supporting such extraordinary literary events in partnership with The National Library of Aruba. □

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor

(10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador
(20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador
(35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Goodwill ambassadors
Mr. Rick & Mrs Rose Nash from Massachusetts, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa bestowed the Goodwill Ambassador certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked

them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, and as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

- "We love the resort!"
- Aruba's year-round sunny weather.
- Aruba's nice sandy beaches.
- Aruba's warm & friendly locals.
- Aruba's restaurants.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



The Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is

presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor

(10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador
(20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador
(35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors
Mr. Andrew & Mrs. Mei-Ling Wong from Massachusetts, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa bestowed the Distinguished certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for

choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, and as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's warm and friendly people who always treat them like family.
- Aruba's year-round

sunny weather.

- Aruba's restaurants.
- "Aruba accepted US dollars everywhere".
- Aruba's diverse culture.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



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Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of

the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.



sible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!☐



Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

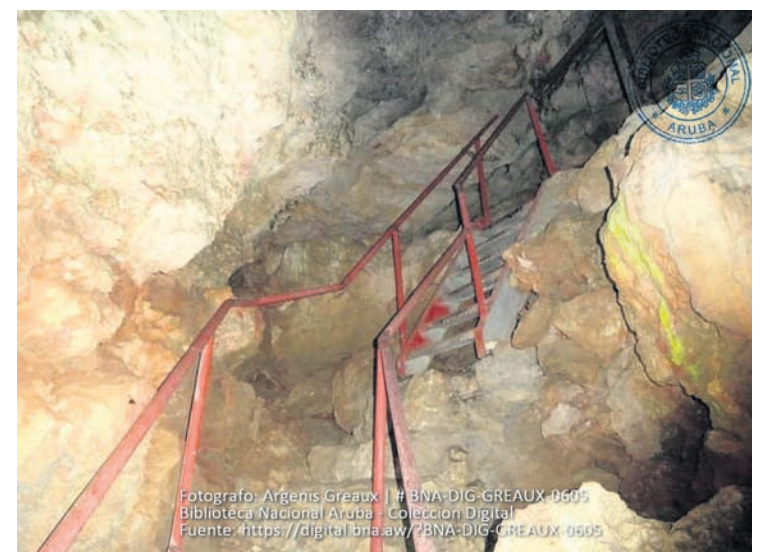
Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

the public, and was the biggest and most acces-



The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to



Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands is visiting Aruba

Yesterday marked the first day of the visit by Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands to Aruba. Princess Beatrix is visiting our island invited by Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), of which she is a patron. DCNA will also be accompanying the princess to her visit to other islands in the Caribbean.

The reason for the visit by the princess is the DCNA congress regarding nature-friendly solutions to restore the ecosystems of the islands in the Dutch Caribbean, since princess Beatrix is a patron of DCNA.

Princess Beatrix began her visit to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Curaçao on the 7th of November.

Yesterday, during the first day of her visit to Aruba, in the morning the princess visited Neptali Henriques Park by her own initiative. She also visited the Telephone for Youth Foundation. At noon, the princess enjoyed lunch with the Governor of Aruba.

In the afternoon, Princess Beatrix visited Rooi Taki as well as Spaans Lagoen, where the directive of Aruba National Park Foundation (FPNA) gave the princess a walk through the location of a conservation project. The goal of the visit was to observe the conservation projects and programs that are being executed in Aruba to protect, preserve and restore ecosystems and biodiversity on our island, and also to cultivate a deeper understanding of solutions based on nature.

Today, Princess Beatrix will be visiting the Arikok National Park. FPNA has started a project here to reintroduce a bird species that became extinct on the island back into nature. This bird has a limited distribution, which makes its reintroduction in Aruba especially significant. The princess will observe a presentation on this special program for preservation of biodiversity, and will observe the birds on site.

In the afternoon, Princess Beatrix will attend the DCNA Symposium, which is focused on solutions based on nature. This symposium is taking place at the University of Aruba. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 Lemon
1 Game
with a
bouncing
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DOWN 1 Pickle
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3 Film
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4 Grace in
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5 Big rig
6 Lyricist
Gershwin

7 Merlot,
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8 The
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9 Campus
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10 Travel
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16 Debate
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18 Bunches
19 Italia's
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21 "—
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23 Abel's
brother
24 Huron
neighbor
25 French
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27 Iridescent
black-
bird

30 Super-
lative
suffix
33 Rust
compound
34 Shore
crawler
35 Stash
away
37 N. Mex.
neighbor
39 By now
41 Topper
42 Curvy
letter

28 Suspi-
cious
29 Dawdled
31 Carnival
city
32 Some
trucks
33 Kitchen
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34 Stylish
36 Fare
carrier
38 Lucy's TV
husband
40 Nouveau
—
43 "Hello"
singer
44 Inklings
45 Plague

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Yesterday's answer

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45						46				

11-10

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

L WLT QC TXXHXPZ VXXKLJDP

PG EXKK L VGYDGZ EWXYX L

HKUNXT ZWXQ. — UQC ZUJ.

"PUBLJD VLPW VYGQ TYGEJLJD"

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT IS A SCIENTIFIC FACT THAT YOUR BODY WILL NOT ABSORB CHOLESTEROL IF YOU TAKE IT FROM ANOTHER PERSON'S PLATE. — DAVE BARRY

Avoid these 3 business mistakes during the holiday season

By RANDA KRISS
of NerdWallet

A broken website. Sold-out items. Shipping delays. These conditions can be detrimental to small businesses during the holiday season, arguably the busiest time of year for retail sales. "We see some of our clients in one weekend — like over Black Friday, Cyber Monday — make more money that weekend than they do for the entire year. It's a huge opportunity," says Sharon Lee Thony, founder and CEO of SLT Consulting, a boutique digital marketing agency, and a Verizon Small Business Digital Ready instructor. Small-business owners may not be able to plan for every contingency, but identifying some of the more likely (and costly) possibilities, as well as having plans to prevent them, can help position businesses for success.

Here are three of the most common mistakes small businesses make leading

up to and during the holiday shopping season, and tips to avoid them.

1. FAILING TO PLAN AHEAD

Planning ahead is key to running a small business, but it's even more important during the holiday season when you're anticipating an influx of sales.

This means having things in place operationally to be able to handle the greater volume of traffic to your e-commerce website or foot traffic in your stores, Thony says.

She recommends preparation strategies such as:

- Making sure you have enough inventory.
- Hiring additional, temporary staff.
- Checking that your website is optimized and links are working.
- Creating competitive promotions that offer value to customers.

If you have it, use historical data to anticipate your seasonal needs and guide planning decisions. In order to make sure you'll have

enough inventory, for example, you can create a sales forecast or inventory demand plan, says Hannah Shr, senior program manager at ICA Fund, a small-business accelerator based in California.

Performing these analyses ahead of time can help ensure that you're not scrambling as the holidays approach, nor leaving "money and opportunities on the table," Shr says.

2. FORGETTING THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

When you're trying to manage your inventory, staff and marketing down to the smallest details, it can be easy to forget who's on the other side of the sale.

But making your customers feel special — feel that you understand their needs — can help you stand out from your competitors during this busy time of year, said Oleg Donets, founder of marketing platform Real Estate Bees and SCORE business mentor, by email.□

Amazon takes another shot at health care, this one a virtual care service that costs \$9 per month

Associated Press

Amazon is taking another shot at becoming a regular health care source for customers with the launch of a service centered on virtual care.

The e-commerce giant says its Prime customers can now get quick access to a health care provider through a program that costs \$9 a month or \$99 annually.

The announcement arrives less than a year after Amazon announced the \$3.9 billion acquisition of

the membership-based primary care provider One Medical, which has medical offices in more than 20 markets.

The company has made a number of attempts to incorporate healthcare into its platform and has started building momentum after some initial setbacks.

The company announced in August that it was adding video telemedicine visits in all 50 states to a virtual clinic it launched last year. Yet Amazon shut down a virtual health care service

last summer that it spent years developing, and it was part of a high-profile but failed push to address health care costs in a partnership with two other major companies, Berkshire Hathaway and JPMorgan. Through the new service, patients will be able to connect virtually around the clock with care providers through its Prime One Medical membership program. The service includes video chats and an option to make in-person visits there are One Medical locations near by.

Virtual care grew popular during the COVID-19 pandemic, and many health care providers have since expanded their telemedicine offerings. It has remained popular as a convenient way to check in with a doctor or deal with relatively minor health issues like pink eye.□



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U.S. childhood vaccination exemptions reach their highest level ever

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The proportion of U.S. kindergartners exempted from school vaccination requirements has hit its highest level ever, 3%, U.S. health officials said Thursday.

More parents are questioning routine childhood vaccinations that they used to automatically accept, an effect of the political schism that emerged during the pandemic around COVID-19 vaccines, experts say.

Even though more kids were given exemptions, the national vaccination rate held steady: 93% of kindergartners got their required shots for the 2022-2023 school year, the same as the year before, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a report Thursday. The rate was 95% in the years before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The bad news is that it's gone down since the pandemic and still hasn't rebounded," said Dr. Sean O'Leary, a University of Colorado pediatric infectious diseases specialist. "The good news is that the vast majority of parents are still vaccinating their kids according to the recommended schedule."

All U.S. states and territories require that children attending child care centers and schools be vaccinated against a number of diseases, including, measles, mumps, polio, tetanus, whooping cough and chickenpox.

All states allow exemptions for children with medical conditions that prevents them from receiving certain vaccines. And most also permit exemptions for religious or other nonmedical reasons.

In the last decade, the percentage of kindergartners with medical exemptions has held steady, at about 0.2%. But the percentage with nonmedical exemptions has inched up, lifting the overall exemption rate from 1.6% in the 2011-2012 school year to



Instructional materials are posted on a wall of a kindergarten class in Maryland on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023.

Associated Press

3% last year.

Last year, more than 115,000 kindergartners were exempt from at least one vaccine, the CDC estimated.

The rates vary across the country.

Ten states — all in the West or Midwest — reported that more than 5% of kindergartners were exempted from at least one kind of required vaccine. Idaho had the highest percentage, with 12% of kindergartners receiving at least one exemption. In contrast, 0.1% had exemptions in New York.

"Sometimes these jumps in exemptions can be very local, and it may not reflect a whole state," said O'Leary, who chairs an American Academy of Pediatrics committee on infectious diseases.

Hawaii saw the largest jump, with the exemption rate rising to 6.4%, nearly double the year before.

Officials there said it's not due to any law or policy change. Rather, "we have observed that there has been misinformation/disinformation impacting people's decision to vaccinate or not via social media platforms," officials at the state's health department said in a statement.

Connecticut and Maine saw significant declines, which CDC officials attributed to recent policy changes that made it harder to get exemptions. Health officials say attaining 95% vaccination coverage is important to prevent outbreaks of preventable diseases, especially of measles, which is extremely contagious.



The U.S. has seen measles outbreaks begin when travelers infected elsewhere came to communities with low vaccination rates. That happened in 2019 when about 1,300 measles cases were reported — the most in the U.S. in nearly 30 years. Most of the cases were in Orthodox Jewish communities with low vaccination rates. One apparent paradox in the report: The national vaccination rate held steady even as exemptions increased. How could that be?

CDC officials say it's because there are actually three groups of children in the vaccination statistics. One is those who get all the shots. A second is those who get exemptions. The third are children who didn't seek exemptions but also didn't get all their shots and paperwork completed at the time the data was collected. □



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Buck and Aikman are now the longest-tenured broadcast crew in NFL history

By **JOE REEDY**
AP Sports Writer

Joe Buck and Troy Aikman were nicknamed "The A Team" when they joined Cris Collinsworth to form Fox's top NFL broadcast crew in 2002.

There were even promotional ads shot featuring Aikman dressed as Mr. T.

Buck and Aikman have long outlived that and have added something else neither could have imagined. In their 22nd season together, they have become the NFL's longest-tenured broadcast team. The first 20 years were at Fox before they moved to ESPN's "Monday Night Football" last year.

Buck and Aikman surpassed the legendary duo of Pat Summerall and John Madden, who worked together for 21 years on CBS and Fox. Summerall and Madden split up after the 2001 season when Summerall went into semi-retirement and Madden moved to "Monday Night Football."

"It means a lot to me because my dad (the late Jack Buck) was a partner to both Pat and John. I knew them when I was a kid," Buck said. "I know there was a lot of respect there. It's just



Fox Sports play-by-play announcer Joe Buck, left, and analyst Troy Aikman work in the broadcast booth before a preseason NFL football game between the Miami Dolphins and Jacksonville Jaguars in Miami Gardens, Fla., Aug. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

the years just kind of fly by and somebody goes, 'Oh, by the way you are passing Madden and Summerall.' That was surprising to me." The Buck-Aikman-Collinsworth booth lasted for three seasons (2002-04) before Collinsworth left for NBC in 2005 after it got the rights to "Sunday Night Football." Aikman thought he would only be doing games for a couple of seasons before

moving on to something else.

"The fact that I'm still doing it 23 years later is shocking to me, but I think there's a lot of good fortune and luck that goes into that," Aikman said. "There's some other great broadcast teams that, for various reasons that had nothing to do with themselves, weren't able to continue. So the fact that even recently ESPN regarded our

work that they wanted both of us just means a lot."

Aikman and Buck hardly knew each other when they were paired together. Buck was hired by Fox when it started doing NFL games in 1994 and split time between regional games and working in the studio the first eight seasons. When Aikman retired from the Dallas Cowboys after the 2000 season, he was hired by Fox

and was assigned to the network's No. 2 team with Dick Stockton and former Cowboys teammate Daryl Johnston.

It didn't take long though for the two to strike up a friendship, similar to what Buck did with Tim McCarver and John Smoltz, who were his baseball partners at Fox.

"I think you need to put as much work on the personal relationship as you do the professional. I don't know that everybody does that," Buck said. "I know a lot of stories of broadcast partners that have been together for a nice chunk of time that didn't really enjoy being with each other. I just can't imagine being in that situation in this kind of a job when you're relying on each other in front of millions of people live."

The Buck-Aikman move to "Monday Night Football" has also boosted what can still be considered one of the premier packages in sports.

This season's average of 15.4 million viewers is up 14% over last season. Part of the bump can be attributed to nearly the entire schedule also airing on ABC due to the writers strike delaying the fall television season. □



This released by the DKC/O+M Co., shows Luke Murphy in a scene from "Sleep No More," performing at The McKittrick Hotel in New York.

Associated Press

By **MARK KENNEDY**
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The "Macbeth"-inspired immersive theater experience "Sleep No More" that is hosted in three empty, hulking warehouse spaces in downtown New York City will say

goodbye early next year on its 5,000 performance. Producers said Wednesday that they'll wrap up the experience on Jan. 28 after 13 years and having welcomed more than 2 million visitors to the art installation-meets-theater-and-dance

Immersive theater experience 'Sleep No More' will end its 13-year New York City run in January

piece with elements of both Shakespeare and Alfred Hitchcock.

"Thirteen years ago, we could never have imagined the astonishing journey this show has been on. It's had an incalculable impact on us all and will live on in our hearts, seep through our skin and sleep in the deepest parts of our imaginations," producers Felix Barrett and Maxine Doyle said.

Created by the British theater troupe Punchdrunk, visitors to the fictional 100,000-square-foot McKittrick Hotel are handed Venetian-style masks to wear and are encouraged to explore. About 25 perform-

ers act out mostly wordless scenes inspired by Shakespeare's play while dressed in 1930s outfits and giving off a film noir vibe and an "Eyes Wide Shut" feel. It became a draw for tourists and a blueprint for more immersive experiences in the city.

Over the years, the space became a multi-venue dining, nightlife and entertainment destination, with a rooftop garden restaurant and stages that attracted sets by everyone from Mumford and Sons and Sting to Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Brandi Carlile, Dua Lipa and Josh Groban.

For the intrepid, about 100

rooms have been carved out over several floors — some as small as a child's bedroom and others as large as a ballroom. The outside has also been brought inside, with a gritty cemetery and a massive forest included in the mix. Guests are encouraged to rummage about the infirmary, taxidermist's place, padded room, libraries, apothecaries, laundry and even a detective agency. Open the drawers, read the books in the shelves: Each room is decorated with no detail unspared. They even seem to have their own odor.

A production in Shanghai is in its seventh year. □

Candace Parker wants to play next season if she can get healthy

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Candace Parker plans on playing another season if she's healthy enough to do so. The two-time WNBA MVP missed the Las Vegas Aces' run to a second straight league championship after having surgery on her left foot in late July.

"I'll weigh my options. If I feel really, really good then I'll play," she said in an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday. "That's a big if. I've got to get my foot right. My foot was really bad last year. I don't want to cheat the game or cheat myself."

Parker said that her left foot had been injured all season — her first with the Aces — but she played through it. It wasn't until she injured her right ankle and Achilles tendon that she got an MRI on her left one too.

"I did it and it was 89% fractured. It's crazy how things work out," said the 37-year-old Parker, who is a free agent but would go back to Las Vegas.

She was on a scooter for 10 1/2 weeks after having surgery and is finally starting to



Las Vegas Aces forward Candace Parker (3) looks to shoot against Seattle Storm center Ezi Magbegor (13) during the second half of a WNBA basketball game Saturday, May 20, 2023, in Seattle.
Associated Press

feel a bit better.

"Every day my foot doesn't feel great walking," she said. "I continue to rehab and stuff. I can't play in pain. It makes the game not fun. I realized on Halloween that I want to take my kids trick or treating. I don't want to be sitting in the car because I can't walk. I want to be able to go out to the beach. I love playing beach volleyball. I

don't know if one more season is worth risking that."

Parker was in New York for the premiere of her documentary "Unapologetic" that will debut on Sunday on ESPN.

The film chronicles Parker's entire story from her childhood in Naperville, Illinois, to becoming a high school basketball phenom, who went on to win two championships at Tennessee. It

continues with her WNBA career after getting drafted first by the Los Angeles Sparks in 2008 and winning the league's MVP and Rookie of the Year that season. The film was shot before she joined Las Vegas a free agent this past year. Parker opens up in the documentary about being left off the 2016 Olympic team, motherhood, her divorce from former NBA player

Shelden Williams.

"A lot of those points in the documentary were well done. I'm proud of it. Proud of the way we handled my injuries, we didn't make excuses," she said.

"The way we handled the USA situation. I'm not going to badmouth people. These are the facts however you want to interpret it. This is why I was upset. Same thing with the divorce. We co-parent well. We had experience doing it when I was overseas for eight years."

Parker also opens up about her marriage to her former Russian league teammate Anna Petrakova.

"You realize the responsibility that there are so many people who are struggling whether you're bringing home someone from the opposite race or the opposite sex or going through things yourself about your identity," Parker said.

"It got to a point where I can't look my daughter in the eyes and tell her to be herself and proud of who she is and we're walking into a room where she can't say that's my bonus mom or this is my mom's wife." □

U.S. tops defending champion Switzerland in BJK Cup Finals. Italy and Canada advance

SEVILLE, Spain (AP) — The United States began its campaign in the Billie Jean King Cup Finals with a win over defending champion Switzerland on Thursday, setting up a decisive tie against the Czech Republic for a spot in the semifinals. Danielle Collins and Sofia Kenin won their singles matches to give the Americans the victory that left them tied with the Czech Republic atop Group A. The U.S. will face the Czechs on Friday.

Only the winners in each of the four groups make it to the semifinals. The Czech Republic beat Switzerland on Tuesday.

The U.S. is without its two top-ranked players — No. 3 Coco Gauff and No. 5 Jes-

sica Pegula. They opted to play in the WTA finals, which was played just before the Billie Jean King Cup Finals. Collins defeated teenager Celine Naef 7-6 (4), 6-1 for her sixth win in seven Billie Jean King Cup matches. Kenin then beat Viktorija Golubic 6-3, 6-7 (1), 7-5 to seal the victory for the Americans. Kenin is playing her first Billie Jean King Cup tie since 2020.

"I was very feisty and eager to get back up the rankings and I definitely feel like I'm getting more attention now," Kenin said. "I definitely feel I deserve it."

The U.S. remains unbeaten against Switzerland in the Billie Jean King Cup, winning all 10 ties between the nations. The U.S. is the most

successful nation in Billie Jean King Cup history with 18 titles. It is trying to reach the semifinals for the second time in three years.

U.S. team captain Kathy Rinaldi will be stepping down from her role after this year's Billie Jean King Cup Finals.

"I know in any tough situation, I can look over at Kathy and there is a calming presence about her," Collins said. "She's one of my biggest role models on and off the court."

Earlier in Group D, Italy defeated Germany 3-0 to reach its first Billie Jean King Cup semifinal in nine years. Martina Trevisan defeated Eva Lys 7-6 (6), 6-1 before Jasmine Paolini beat Anna-Lena Friedsam 6-3, 6-2.



U.S. Danielle Collins celebrates after defeating Switzerland's Celine Naef during their group stage tennis match at the Billie Jean King Cup finals at La Cartuja stadium in Seville, southern Spain, Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023.
Associated Press

In the doubles, Elisabetta Cocciaretto and Lucia Bronzetti defeated Friedsam and Laura Siegemund 6-4, 6-7 (4), 11-9.

Australia defeated Kazakhstan 2-1 in Alicia Molik's final Billie Jean King Cup tie after 10 years as Aussie captain. Storm Hunter put Australia

ahead by beating Anna Danilina 7-6 (2), 6-4. Kazakhstan evened the tie with Yulia Putintseva defeating Kimberly Birrell 6-0, 7-5, and Hunter and Ellen Perez gave the Aussies the win by beating Danilina and Putintseva 6-1, 4-6, 10-5. □

The designated hitter hasn't always lived up to its title after 2 full MLB seasons in both leagues

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Baseball Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

The universal designated hitter has been part of Major League Baseball for two full seasons and, much to the chagrin of some National League traditionalists, the sport has survived and even thrived.

In a somewhat surprising development, though, many teams are struggling to get much production from that spot.

The next generation of big-bopping DHs like David Ortiz, Edgar Martinez and Frank Thomas hasn't materialized, with just three players logging at least 110 games at designated hitter during the 2023 season. That trio includes Angels two-way star Shohei Ohtani, Braves slugger Marcell Ozuna and the Nationals' Joey Meneses.

The general consensus at this week's general managers' meetings in Scottsdale, Arizona, is that filling the position — and getting production from it — is harder than it looks.

The American League has had the DH since 1973, while the National League made the full-time switch in 2022. The NL also used the DH in 2020 during the COVID-19 shortened season.



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani walks in the dugout during the ninth inning of the team's baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Anaheim, Calif., Sept. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

"Most hitters that you encounter don't like to DH," Mariners general manager Jerry Dipoto said. "It's an acquired taste. Most would prefer to play a position and not just wait to hit every two or three innings. And I get why — you want to stay active, you want to move around, feel like you're part of the game." Instead of having one dedicated DH for the majority of the season, most MLB teams seem content to have several, cycling

players through who might need rest or are nursing an injury.

A whopping 13 of MLB's 30 teams received production at DH that was below replacement level. The DH is unique for the widely used WAR (wins above replacement) formula because it starts with a deficit for a player providing no value in the field.

The NL champion Arizona Diamondbacks were one of the teams that struggled at DH, with a minus-1.4 WAR

total, according to FanGraphs. The spot produced just a .676 OPS during the 162-game regular season, which was well below the team's overall mark of .730. D-backs GM Mike Hazen agreed he'd like to see more production at DH, but said there are other ways to use the rule that WAR can't completely quantify.

"If you're rotating your fourth outfielder through the DH spot, or one of your primary center fielders through the DH spot to give them a day

off, that's what we're using it for now," Hazen said.

"We'll probably still keep doing that because there's value in keeping guys fresh and healthy."

San Francisco Giants president of baseball operations Farhan Zaidi said he would love to have an Ortiz-type player in the DH slot, but it's hard to find that sort of hitter. Ortiz is considered the gold standard, making the Hall of Fame in 2022 after clubbing 541 homers, including 485 as a DH.

The Giants used 10 designated hitters in 2023.

"I think when you get elite, elite hitters that don't have a home defensively, you're willing to pay the price of not having that spot to rotate guys through," Zaidi said. "But that's a relatively small group of players."

Zaidi's point about roster construction is also important, because teams usually carry just 13 or 14 position players. That doesn't leave much room for a player who's not useful in the field.

"I know for us in development, no matter how good a player is offensively, you're always going to look for a home for them defensively," Zaidi said. "We don't want a player anchored to that spot, certainly early in their career." □



Golden State Warriors forward Andre Iguodala handles the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Jan. 16, 2022, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Andre Iguodala is taking over as the acting executive director of the National Basketball Players Association

after the resignation of Tamika Tremaglio, the union announced Thursday.

Tremaglio, the union said, is "stepping down from the

Andre Iguodala takes over as acting executive director of NBA players' union

position to pursue new opportunities." The NBPA's executive committee has approved Iguodala's appointment, the union said.

Tremaglio was not even two full years into her four-year term as executive director. It was not immediately clear if Iguodala, the four-time NBA champion who retired after last season and was a longtime union officer, would be interested in the job in a permanent capacity.

The change atop the union seemed to come as a surprise, given that Tremaglio revealed on Tuesday that

she had just met with the Indiana Pacers — the second team she visited with this season, following time with the Atlanta Hawks in October — and was planning to be back in Indianapolis for All-Star weekend in February.

"I am honored to take on this role and serve the players, who are the heart and soul of the NBA," Iguodala said in a release distributed by the union.

While the NBA and the NBPA are in constant communication about various matters, the biggest issue that the sides deal with

won't be a major topic for several years. The league and its players are still in the opening months of a new Collective Bargaining Agreement that will be in place through at least Oct. 15, 2028, and perhaps through the 2029-30 season.

"His leadership on the NBPA Executive Committee was imperative to multiple rounds of CBA negotiations, and he has empowered our players to think like the business titans they are," Tremaglio wrote of Iguodala on social media last month. □